

on the high seas or beyond three miles from the coastline of the Great Lakes, unless it has installed in a readily accessible location at or near the principal steering station—

(1) A manually activated Category 2 406 MHz EPIRB; or

(2) A float-free, automatically activated Category 1 406 MHz EPIRB.

(3) Until February 1, 1998, a 121.5/243.0 MHz EPIRB meeting § 25.26-30.

(c) The owner of a fishing vessel, fish processing vessel or a fish tender vessel 11 meters (36 feet) or more in length that does not have installed galley or berthing facilities, shall ensure that the vessel does not operate on the high seas or beyond three miles from the coastline of the Great Lakes unless it has on board a float-free, automatically activated Category 1 406 MHz EPIRB stowed in a manner so that it will float free if the vessel sinks.

[CGD 87-016a, 58 FR 13367, Mar. 10, 1993; 58 FR 27658, May 11, 1993, as amended by CGD 95-028, 62 FR 51196, Sept. 30, 1997; USCG-1998-4442, 63 FR 52189, Sept. 30, 1998]

§ 25.26-10 Uninspected passenger vessels.

An uninspected passenger vessel is not required to carry an EPIRB.

§ 25.26-20 Other manned uninspected commercial vessels.

(a) The owner of a manned uninspected commercial vessel 11 meters (36 feet) or more in length, other than a vessel under § 25.26-5 or § 25.26-10 or under paragraph (b) of this section, shall ensure that the vessel does not operate on the high seas or beyond three miles from the coastline of the Great Lakes, unless it has on board a float-free, automatically activated Category 1 406 MHz EPIRB stowed in a manner so that it will float free if the vessel sinks.

(b) The owner of a manned uninspected commercial vessel less than 11 meters (36 feet) in length, or 11 meters or more in length which has a builder's certification that the vessel is constructed with sufficient inherently buoyant material to keep the flooded vessel afloat, shall ensure that the vessel does not operate on the high seas or beyond three miles from the coastline of the Great Lakes, unless it has in-

stalled in a readily accessible location at or near the principal steering station—

(1) A manually activated Category 2 406 MHz EPIRB; or

(2) A float-free, automatically activated Category 1 406 MHz EPIRB.

[CGD 87-016a, 58 FR 13367, Mar. 10, 1993; 58 FR 27658, May 11, 1993, as amended by CGD 95-028, 62 FR 51196, Sept. 30, 1997; USCG-1998-4442, 63 FR 52189, Sept. 30, 1998]

§ 25.26-50 Servicing of EPIRBs.

(a) The master of each vessel required to have an EPIRB under this subpart shall ensure that each EPIRB on board is tested and serviced as required by this section.

(b) The EPIRB must be tested immediately after installation and at least once each month thereafter, unless it is an EPIRB installed in a Coast Guard approved inflatable liferaft that is tested annually during the servicing of the liferaft by an approved servicing facility. The test shall be conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, using the visual or audio indicator on the EPIRB. If the EPIRB is not operating, it must be repaired or replaced with an operating EPIRB.

(c) The battery of the EPIRB must be replaced—

(1) Immediately after the EPIRB is used for any purpose other than being tested; and

(2) Before the expiration date that is marked on the battery.

[CGD 87-016a, 58 FR 13367, Mar. 10, 1993; 58 FR 27658, May 11, 1993]

§ 25.26-60 Exemptions.

(a) A skiff or work boat is not required to carry an EPIRB if—

(1) Its "mother ship" is required to carry an EPIRB under this subpart; and

(2) When not in use, the skiff or work boat is carried on board the mother ship.

(b) Each Coast Guard District Commander may, on a case-by-case basis, grant exemptions from the carriage requirements of EPIRBs in this subpart for certain geographic areas within the boundaries of his or her own district if the District Commander determines that an EPIRB will not significantly enhance the overall safety of the vessel